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WASHINGTON
Detectors

A bill limiting lie detector use and censorship of federal workers was introduced today by House Government Operations Committee chairman Jack Brooks.

The Texas Democrat said the bill was in response to a 1983 presidential directive which requires persons in over 100,000 federal positions to submit any writing for clearance before publication, even after they leave government service.

The directive also requires applicants for positions involving access to defense-related information to take lie detector tests during pre-employment interviews.

Brooks' bill would prohibit the federal government from imposing prepublication requirements on most federal workers. It would also allow the use of lie detectors only in investigations of illegal activities.

"The bill would legislatively prevent the administration from implementing unsound lie detector and censorship policies which place a premium on intimidation," he said in a statement.

The bill does not apply to the Central Intelligence Agency or the National Security Agency.

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